

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
September 4, 2008  
12:15-2:00 pm  
Team House  
201 W. Mill St.  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

**Commissioners present:**

Christopher Massa, Carol Grisotti, Veatrice Jews, Gabriel Gonzales, David Ford, Jane Mercer, Tanya Perry, Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Michael Hill and Lisha Smith on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales.

**Excused absence:**

Bill Swift, Tom Rivera and Jane Godager

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Faith Ikeda, Renee Compton, Edward Deyon Pathways to Recovery; Ed Hiner; Michael Moreno, La Vernon Ryan, Devin Davis, Susan Allen, Linda Joanne Sapierza, Armida Cortez, David Miller, Lisa Stetler, Greg Sweeler, Jamie Dietz, Michelle Dusick, Denise Zarembo, Bobby Tazari, Rosa Gomez, Maria Coronado, Charlene Daniels, Mike Oliver, Gary Atkins, Doug Fazekas, Sonia Rubio, Doris Turner, Wayne Jones

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Chairperson Ford called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed. He stated that the Commission is honored to be at Team House today and he is pleased with the turnout. He also complimented the chef on an excellent lunch! The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of August 7<sup>th</sup> were adopted as written.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Mental Health Commission District Advisory Committees are in the process of organizing. They will act as liaison to the community.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Rawland congratulated Doug Fazekas on his recent participation in the U.S. Open as a pro tennis player reaching the quarter finals. He welcomed Lisha Smith, who provided greetings from Supervisor Gonzales.

**County and State Budget**

Hopefully there will be a state budget within the next two weeks. They are continuing to negotiate the \$17 billion shortfall which has had a tremendous impact in the community, in our schools and healthcare. There are major Alcohol and Drug Service cuts to drug courts and residential based programs. Sales tax has been impacted and the next couple of years will be a challenge. We are committed to getting consumers the federal entitlement they need and all staff assist with necessary paperwork.

## **MHSA**

- Doug Fazekas, Housing Manager will present the MHSA Master Housing Plan at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Mental Health Commission meeting.
- MHSA Capital/Technology component will be presented by Dennis Terrones and Keith Harris at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- San Bernardino County is the first large county to submit their final Prevention and Early Intervention Plan (PEI). It was described by the State as a model plan for other counties. Approval of the plan is expected by September 25.
- The final Workforce Education and Training Plan (WET) has been submitted to the State with approval anticipated within 45 days.
- The Integrated Health Care Westside Crisis Walk-In Center is in the planning stage. We have a lot of work in front of us through FY 2016.

## **2008 NAMI Walk**

The 2008 NAMI Walk will be Saturday October 25 in Hemet. Funds are raised for the NAMI affiliates. Come out and join Big Al's team!

## **Program Visits**

A letter has been sent out to all county and contract programs announcing possible visits by members of the Mental Health Commission during this fiscal year.

## **District Advisory Committee (DACs)**

DAC Reports will be added as an ongoing agenda item. The committees are a bridge to the community within our large geographic county. The Mental Health Commission will create a community group to address the unmet needs and services of each Supervisorial District and to get the community and local agencies involved. It may also provide a pool of people to be considered for future Mental Health Commission member appointments. The DACs are designed to be co-chaired by the Commission with support staff provided by Deputy Directors, Rosa Gomez and Gary Atkins.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

Renee Compton thanked MHSA for everything they do for Pathways to Recovery. She is also proud of the SOAR Program that has developed at the Phoenix Clinic.

David Miller, Peer and Family Advocate stated that Amazing Place has a Governing Board that oversees the center. He is proud of the positive energy that exists within the clubhouses.

Linda Joanne Sapeinza of the newly established SOAR Program at Phoenix Clinic thanked the members of Pathways for their contributions. SOAR looks forward to participating and assisting the Commission with their dedication to consumers.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: CLUBHOUSES**

Bob Sudol stated that the Peer and Family Advocates on the hospital units are getting consumers involved in their own recovery and that there is hope. They have organized Family Nights in the units once a month. Bob introduced Pastor Oliver Lambert of the faith based community who provides outreach to the community and collaborates with Team House. Bob thanked Director Rawland and team for their administrative stamina to bring in all the MHSA

money for the programs. The Homeless Court, conducted by Judge Reilly and organized by David Denkers three years ago, takes place at Team House every three months.

Recovery stories from numerous clubhouse members followed.

Director Rawland acknowledged Bob Sudol and Don Charboneau for their commitment to the members of the clubhouses; "It makes all the bureaucratic stuff worthwhile". Mr. Uffer, County Administrative Officer, was invited to the PFA Focus group in August. He stayed for two hours and thoroughly enjoyed the Hugh Downs video starring David Miller. Allan says he is honored to have the support of Mr. Uffer and Supervisor Gonzales.

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel stated the new buzz word is not "consumers" but "contributors".

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Ford opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Massa nominated Commissioner Grisotti; she accepted. Commissioner Grisotti nominated Commissioner McGee-Stehsel; she accepted. Nominations were closed. Lisha Smith counted the votes; then announced Commissioner McGee-Stehsel as the Vice Chair of the Mental Health Commission through January 2009.

## **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

No comments at this time.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

### **District 1:**

No report at this time.

### **District 2:**

Commissioner Farr stated that the Second District Advisory Committee has had two very productive meetings. She mentioned they may need to change a few things to enhance programs. She stated that Judge Mary Morgan gave an excellent presentation at the NAMI Convention. She was impressed that eight Mental Health Parole Officers attended the convention using their own money. Dr. Steve Mayberg, Director, California Department of Mental Health discussed mental health successes and challenges.

### **District 3:**

Commissioner Massa met with Mike Oliver, Program Manager to discuss the Third District Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Perry stated that the Big Bear Mental Health Alliance application has been submitted to DBH. The plan, if approved, will greatly increase the programs in the mountain communities.

### **District 4:**

Commissioner Grisotti sees a definite value of the DACs and feels this is what has been missing within our county. She also thanked the clubhouse members for sharing from their heart today. Giving back is so important to the recovery process.

**District 5:** Commissioner Jews enjoyed her first NAMI Convention learning the tools of empowerment. The theme was “Celebrating Recovery”. As part of the faith based community she will share her experiences with her pastor.

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel suggested including a calendar of events on the Network of Care website that would include upcoming trainings and committee meetings. She attended 2008 NAMI Convention and was thrilled to hear of “contributors” in the hospital units and the possibility of reimbursement for sustainability for peer run programs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

---

*David Ford*  
Chairman

---

*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission